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The Bolsheviks seem to have shot their bolt.

If the league of nations had been advocated by a Republican president, what a different alignment there would have been?

When Harry G. Hawker flies from Europe to the United States, whether by non-stop route or not, he will be given the cordial reception which his feat deserves.

For some reason or other, the anti-Penrose section of the Republican party in the Senate seems to have lost its vitalizing force, for the opposition to the selection of Penrose as chairman of the finance committee was more or less of a perfunctory motion.

Not having experienced any close shaves, a member of the NC-4 crew took one on his own account during the Azores to Portugal flight and cleaned up for the reception awaiting the crew of the seaplane. Talk about American nonchalance—that was the real display of it.

The saying that the U. S. marines are ready for anything and are sent anywhere is given color by the announcement that a detachment of the marines is now in the former German city of Danzig, which is to become an open port for the benefit of the new Poland and where trouble from a German source might have been expected. The U. S. marines are almost always the first on the spot when the services of the United States forces are found to be necessary in settling international broils. It is to be hoped, however, that there will be no further need for them at Danzig, other than for their mere presence.

The somewhat enigmatic utterance of President Wilson anent the duties and responsibilities of being a president of a republic may be capable of more than one interpretation, although the interpretation generally accepted is that Wilson's tenure of the presidency is to be voluntarily limited by the present term in the White House. If it is "delightful" to know that his presidency is not ahead of him, it may be taken to mean that his pleasure is grounded on the thought that the duties and obligations are practically in the past and that the future beyond the end of his present term promises him success from the trying work which has been his lot for more than six years. But even so, this interpretation is more or less along the line of speculation.

The acme of uselessness in the development of the motor-driven vehicle seems to have been reached in the races held on circular tracks and under conditions that can never safeguard the sport. Automobile racing on straight-away courses is full of enough dangers to satisfy the craving of most people for excitement, but when the high-powered machines are put on circular tracks the hazards are increased many times until the resort to that form of excitement is entirely beyond reason. What satisfaction is it to see human lives sacrificed just to know what mechanism is the more speedy? What value is it to send men to their death to determine which equipment can stand the most strain? What advancement does it give to science to throw away human lives in such reckless and absolutely foolish fashion? There is no material gain worth the cost of the sport, and the recent events on the race track at Indianapolis ought to mean the end of such resort to criminal surrender to the speed mania.

In nearly every place heard from, the absence of world war veterans from the Memorial day parade was particularly noticeable. There undoubtedly were many causes contributing to this situation, chief of all perhaps being the modesty of the men themselves, many of whom declare that they have got enough of marching and parading to last them for one while. Possibly, too, the invitation to them was of too general a nature, which kept them from participating in the observance of the day with the veterans of the Civil war and the others. But whatever the cause, it ought to be removed by another Memorial day, so that we may see a general participation by the service men of 1917-19 in order to perpetuate the significance of the day. The khaki uniforms that were laid away when the soldiers were discharged from service and the uniforms of blue worn by the naval men should be brought out a year from now and be worn by the men who had any part, either in the United States or in Europe, in defeating the Germans in the great war. It would please the people of every community very much to see these men in the Memorial day parade in 1920, and it goes without saying that the veterans of 1861-65 would be overjoyed to welcome the new veterans into the line.

**HAWKER DID NOT REPRESENT BRITISH SPIRIT.**

Whatever feeling of irritation may have been developed among American people over the remarks made by the British aviator, Harry G. Hawker, anent the efforts of the U. S. seaplanes to fly

## The Balance of Power

Old World politics has been for centuries directed and sustained by secret treaties, with a view to the maintaining of what is known as "The Balance of Power."

The brief intervals of Peace which followed wars among States were the result of the shifting of this "Balance of Power."

Present-day civilization asks for a more stable guarantee against the aggression of selfish and designing government, and so we are endeavoring to formulate an international code of ethics, called "A League of Nations," which shall bring diplomacy into the open and have proper regard for the rights of weak nations.

Whether this idea can be worked out successfully and to the permanent good of mankind is a question which only time can answer, but if it can it will be a matter of universal satisfaction.

There is another balance of power which should have our consideration, and that is the bank balance.

Nations and political sub-divisions are only strong and prosperous as the people save. All capital has its origin with the savings of the people.

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across the Atlantic ocean, will probably be dispelled by the information of the courteous reception given to Lieutenant Commander A. C. Read and his crew on their arrival in England after their successful, though delayed, flight from Rockaway Beach, N. Y., to Plymouth, England, by way of the Azores islands. The reception which the officials and the people of the port town of Plymouth gave the Americans was of a nature to make them feel welcome and to acquaint them with the fact that they had contributed a measureable degree of help in negotiating a very difficult flight. If the British felt any disappointment because the Americans were the first to cover the air route between the United States and Europe they were able to cloak their feelings in a guise of hospitality and good sense which left none of the irritation developed by the remarks of Hawker at a recent banquet given in his honor in England just after his arrival there from his unsuccessful, and nearly fatal, effort to make a non-stop flight from Newfoundland to the Irish mainland. But not all Americans were disturbed by Hawker's statement, belittling the American effort, because they assumed that the remarks were made by a boyish individual, who, suddenly raised to the pedestal of the hero, was carried away by the adulation and, in that mental state, gave vent to words which were scarcely becoming, to say the least. It is believed that Hawker's assertion does not represent British sentiment, albeit there may be those who have the same toady feeling that Hawker displayed. A real thoughtful sportsman would not have tried to belittle the more plodding efforts of a rival for aerial honors.

### CURRENT COMMENT

#### Our Minister to Poland.

The announcement from Paris that Hugh Gibson of the American embassy staff at the French capital has been selected as the first American minister to Poland should be welcome to his countrymen on several scores. In the first place, Mr. Gibson is a young diplomatist of considerable diplomatic experience, and his appointment constitutes a refreshing exception to the rule hitherto followed by the administration in many other cases, where heads of embassies and legations have been appointed as a reward for political service. The result was a tremendous loss in prestige and influence to the nation. In the second place, Mr. Gibson's appointment may rightly be regarded as a reward for diplomatic service in time of war. Even had his work in the department of state and at Paris not demonstrated his ability,

his friends at Brussels before and during the great war, and especially his efforts to save Edith Cavell from her cruel fate, entitle him to the opportunity which his appointment to the Polish mission will afford.

It would be refreshing if Mr. Gibson's appointment gave ground for hope that the political raids upon the diplomatic service are nearing an end.

Certainly the era upon which the nation is entering places upon the appointing power a responsibility heavier than ever to man American embassies and legations with men fitted by training and experience for the difficult tasks they will be called upon to discharge.—Boston Transcript.

#### Vermont's Rural Problem.

The lack of a community ideal or community purpose is evident in most sections of Vermont. We attempted in the last editorial on this subject to suggest a purpose and would repeat it in the slogan "A good farmer for every good farm." This can only be secured through co-operation of the good farmers and the good business men of the section.

There is necessity for further co-operation in properly equipping all good farms with labor saving machinery and facilities for approved modern methods of farming. There is some question whether the average farms are not overstocked with machinery, that is, if most farms do not have too much capital invested in machinery to provide good returns on the capital tied up in it. A machine that will not earn from ten to twenty per cent of its cost per year is a poor investment from a financial standpoint.

This being true, it would seem good business for the farmers to get together and determine how many corn planters, harvesting and threshing machines, potato planters and sprayers, seeders, traction engines and similar machinery can be profitably employed in their community and the men best fitted to own and operate such machines. Then they should inform the local agent how much of this machinery their community demands and who should have it. Then let the local agent sell such machinery and understand that it is all he is expected to sell in that community that season. He should not be allowed to exploit the farmers for the personal profit to be secured from them.

If Mr. Smith is the best man to operate a corn planter he should place the corn for himself and as many neighbors as it is practical for one planter to do in a season. While he is planting corn for a neighbor the neighbor should be hauling the manure or plowing or doing similar work for Mr. Smith so his farm work can be accomplished conveniently with that of his neighbors. In other words the best corn planter, potato planter, or harvester, or sprayer should do as much of that particular kind of work in the community as is practicable and the other kinds of farm work on his farm should be done by the people he is serving so he will not suffer by performing this special service. In this way skilled planting, spraying and harvesting could be done, and the value of skilled

work in all these lines is generally recognized.

#### McAdoo's White House Bid.

Mr. William Gibbs McAdoo, citizen, has launched his own campaign for the presidency. In two speeches within a week he has taken advantage of the opportunity given to go outside the regular text of the meeting and to throw a favorable light of his own making upon his career as a public official. He is fully aware, of course, of the feeling of the country in regard to the railroad administration. For the policies and methods of this body he is responsible. He was given the freest of hands by the president, and ruled supreme in the railroad world. And he was careful that his successor should be a man who would not overturn what he had done and would follow the same path that he had mapped out.

So his first step in the presidential race is to explain why it was that he was so generous in the raising of railroad wages, the result of which has been a failure to make both ends meet in the railroad administration. He comes out as the advocate of high pay, which would imply that he is of so generous a nature, so far as government funds are concerned, that if he was put in the White House there might be expected from him equal liberality along all lines of industrial activity. This should make a real appeal to the dissatisfied and secure for him their very sincere support for the higher position. It is certain that no other aspirant for the Democratic nomination can show the same record of horizontal wage-raising, perhaps from lack of opportunity alone.

Mr. McAdoo says that he is willing to have the next presidential campaign waged on the management of the war. This is a wise announcement. It has the appearance of real courage. Besides, he could not prevent this from being one of the issues of next year, no matter what he did, especially if he is to be in the front row of the contest. So he wisely and gracefully bows to the inevitable. He is already, too, showing an outcropping of the Wilsonian spirit. In describing one of his acts he says that "America took advantage of the opportunity to do a great service to humanity." This identification of one's self with the whole nation is very characteristic of recent White House atmosphere. So Mr. McAdoo starts his campaign with three planks of his platform agreed upon by the general public with generous willingness to declare that the war management was all that could be expected by a grateful nation, and the possession of the Wilsonian spirit of thought and words.—Philadelphia Press.

#### HOW BARRE WAS NAMED.

(By Daniel L. Cady.)  
See Thompson's "Vermont," Part III, page 9.

I wonder if you've ever heard  
How Barre got its name,  
But if I swear in telling you  
I'm not the one to blame:  
For this is quite an ancient tale,  
And when the state was young  
The folks, they wore but little jade  
And spoke with freer tongue.

The town at first was Wildensburgh,  
But when the settlers came  
In good-sized lumps, they soon desired  
To pick a prettier name;  
And so they met at Calvin Smith's  
To see about the change.  
And choose a word of loftier pitch  
And more romantic range.

One said that "Paris" filled the mouth,  
Another said it seemed of name  
That "Newburn" was the kind of name  
O'er which he'd drolled and dreamed;  
But Calvin Thomson said, "Get out;  
From Holden's hill I came:  
I favor Holden first and last,  
A Massachusetts name."

Then up spoke Mr. Sherman, there,  
And said, "I, too, proclaim  
I'd like to see this meeting choose  
A good old Bay State name;  
I hail from Barre, that's a word  
To bring our town success.  
'Twill make us famous, I'm convinced,  
And wealthy, more or less."

"Get out," cried Thomson, "Go to grass:  
That ain't no kind of name."  
And so the couple jawed and jawed  
Until their jaws were aching;  
The crowd was getting pretty tired  
And soon commenced to shout,  
"You fellows with such heads of lip,  
Why don't you fight it out?"

Whereat they grinned and quickly 'greed  
Accret a pole to fight.  
But if one knocked the other down,  
Then any rules was right;  
So off they went to Calvin's barn  
To organize the game,  
And started in to scrap for what  
Is now a city's name.

Soon Thomson, with a fearful swing,  
Laid out his rival clean,  
And jumping on his prostrate form,  
Began to bat his bean;  
But Sherman dodged with great success,  
And missing not his aim  
He ransacked Thomson's ribs as though  
He had a world to name.

At last, with will and skill supreme,  
He rolled the Holdenite,  
And found himself atop of one  
Who showed no further fight;  
Then springing up and standing high  
Above his foe's frame,  
He shouted, "Barre! There, by God!  
Now Barre is the name."



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—Boston Transcript.

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